2500 KIDDIES TO BE GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Annual Yule Tree To Be Held at Presbyterian Church at 6 P. M. Monday

The annual Rotary Club Christmas tree to the poor children of the city will be held on the side of the First Presbyterian church at 6:00 o'clock Monday evening and 2,500 tickets to the tree are now being issued by members of the ticket committee, according to H. G. H. Wienert, secretary of the club.

Presents, consisting of toys, candy and fruit, have been secured and 2,500 stockings are now being filled by the stocking committee, composed of Burt Hinkley, George White and Leon Perl, assisted by Girl Reserves and Rotary Annes.

Harry Banker is general chairman and supervisor of the tree which has already been obtained and will be erected Monday morning. This tree will stand approximately 12 feet high and will be brilliantly lighted and appropriately decorated, Weinert stated.

Presents for the children are being obtained by a committee composed of Bob Ernst and Roy Sethman andt he decorations and lighting have been placed in the hands of John Starck and Bill Thompson.

The candy and fruit which are to go into each stocking along with some toy is being secured by Arthur Hipp and Cleve Tandy and the tickets which are to entitle the children to gifts from the tree are being distributed by Rev. E. P. Day and Owen Combs.

Weinert declared that every effort was being made to give every poor child in the city a ticket to the tree and that the club was putting forth every effort to secure toys for all.

"We do not want one child to go away unremembered,' he said, "and for that reason we have gone into this on a bigger scale this year than ever before.'

CHICAGO.—As a defense to a charge of theft Thomas Moring pleaded that he "had five children and a nasty-tempered wife to keep."

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PRESIDENT-ELECT HOOVER RECALLS HIS BOYHOOD IN PAPER BEFORE IOWA GROUP



Pictures taken from the family album of Herbert Hoover: His mother, Huldah, and, below, left, he himself, and, right, his father, Jesse Clark Hoover.

(From an address made by Herbert Hoover before the Iowa Society.)

I prefer to think of Iowa as I saw it through the eyes of a 10-year-old boy—and the eyes of all 10-year-old Iowa boys are or should be filled with the wonders of Iowa's streams and woods, of the mystery of growing crops. His days should be filled with adventure and great undertakings, with participation in good and comforting things. I was taken farther west from Iowa when I was 10, to Oregon, and then to that final haven of Iowans—California—where I have clung ever since.

Some say that these recollections of Iowa are only the illusions of 40 years after, but I know better—for I have been back and checked them up. I was told that when I went back everything would have shrunk up and become small and ordinary.

For instance, there was Cook's Hill—that great long hill where, on winter nights, we slid down at terrific speeds with our tummies tight to home-made sleds. I've seen it several times since; it's a good hill and except for the older method of thawing out frozen toes with ice water the operation needs no modern improvement.

The Ole' Swimmin' Hole

The swimming hole under the willows down by the railroad bridge is still operating efficiently, albeit modern mothers probably compel their youngsters to take a bath to get rid of clean and healthy mud when they come home. The hole still needs to be deepened however. It is hard to keep from pounding the mud with your hands and feet when you shove off for the 30 feet of a cross-channel swim.

And there were the woods down the Burlington track. The denudation of our forest hasn't reached them even yet, and I know there are rabbits still being trapped in cracker boxes held open by a figure four at the behest of small boys at this very time. I suspect, however, that the conservationists have invented some kind of a closed season before now.

One of the bitterest days of my life was in connection with a rabbit. Rabbits fresh from a figure-four trap early on a cold morning are wiggly rabbits, and in the lore of boys of my time it is better to bring them home alive.

My brother, being older, had surreptitiously behind the blacksmith shop read in the "Youth's Companion" full directions for rendering live rabbits secure. I say "surreptitiously," for mine was a Quaker family unwilling in those days to have youth corrupted with stronger reading than the Bible, the encyclopedia, or those great novels where the hero overcomes the demon rum.

A Herbert Hoover Failure

Soon after he had acquired this higher learning on rabbits, he proceeded to instruct me to stand still in the cold snow and to hold up the rabbit by its hind feet while with his not over-sharp knife he proposed to puncture two holes between the sinews and back knee joints of the rabbit, through which holes he proposed to tie a string and thus arrive at complete security.

Upon the introduction of the operation the resistance of this rabbit was too much for me. I was not only blamed for its escape all the way home and for weeks afterwards, but continuously over the last forty years. I had thougth sometimes that I would write the "Youth's Companion" and suggest they make sure that this method is altered. For I never see rabbit tracks across the snowy fields that I do not have a painful recollection of it all.

I mentioned the Burlington track. It was a wonderful place. The track was ballasted with glacial gravels where on industrious search you discovered gems of agate and fossil coral which could with infinite backaches be polished on the grindstone. Their fine points came out wonderfully when wet, and you had to lick them with your tongue each exhibit. I suppose that engineering has long since destroyed this inspiration to young geologists by using mass production crushed rock.

A Campaign on Hoover's Youth

My earliest realization of the stir of national life was the torch parade in the Garfield campaign. On that occasion, I was not only allowed out that night, but I saw the lamps filled and lighted. There was no great need for urging voters in our village—there was a democrat in the village. He occasionally fell to the influence of liquor, therefore in the esteem of our group he represented all the forces of evil. At times he relapsed to goodness in the form of rations of a single gumdrop to the small boys who did errands at his store. He also bought the old iron from which the financial resources were provided for firecrackers on the Fourth of July. He was, therefore, tolerated and he served well and efficiently as a moral and political lesson.

Iowa, through the eyes of a ten-year-old boy, is not all adventure or high living. Iowa in those years, as in these years, was filled with days of school—and who does not remember with a glow that sweet-faced lady who, with infinite patience and kindness, drilled into us those foundations of all we know today? And they were days of chores and labor.

I am no supporter of factory labor for children, but I have never joined with those who clamored against proper work for children on farms outside of their school hours. And I speak from the common experience of most Iowa children of my day in planting corn, hoeing gardens, learning to milk, sawing wood, and the other proper and normal occupations for boys. We had no need of Montesori schools to teach us application. But of more purpose I can bespeak for the strong and healthy bodies which come from it all.

Nor was Iowa of those days without its tragedies. Medical science of those times was powerless against the contagious diseases which swept the countryside. My parents were among its victims.

Different Sort of Life

There was an entirely different economic setting of farm life in Iowa in those days. I am not stating to you that I had at that time any pretence of economics or the farm problem. Upon the uncle's farm with whom I lived, we did know of the mortgage as some dreadful damper on youthful hopes of things that could not be bought. I do have a vivid recollection that the major purpose of a farm was to produce a living right on the spot for the family.

I know by experience that a family then produced all of its own vegetables, carried its grain to the nearest mill for grinding on toll, cut and hauled its own fuel from the wonderful woods ten miles away and incidentally gathered walnuts.

The family wove its own carpets and some of its clothes, made its own soap, preserved its own meat and fruit and vegetables, got its sweetness from sorghum and honey. These families consumed perhaps 80 per cent of the product of their land. Twenty per cent of it was exchanged for the few outside essentials and to pay interest on the mortgage. When prices rose and fell on the Chicago market, they only affected 20 per cent of the product of the farm.

I know, and you know, that today as the result of the revolution brought about by machinery and improved methods of planting and breeding animals, and what-not, 80 per cent of the product of the farm must go to the market.

When the price of these things wabbles in Chicago, it has four times the effect on that family on the farm that it did in those days. If prices are high—they mean comfort and automobiles; if prices are low—they mean increasing debt and privation. I am not recommending the good old days, for while the standards of living in food and clothing and shelter were high enough for anybody's health and comfort, there was but little left for the other purposes of living. That is probably one reason why the people of Iowa of that time put more of their time in religious devotion than most of them do now.

Having Pleasure Was Cheap

It certainly did not require as much expenditure as their recreation does today. However, those of you who are acquainted with the Quaker faith, and who know the primitive furnishing of the Quaker meeting house of those days, the solemnity of the long hours of meeting awaiting the spirit to move some one, will know the intense restraint required in a ten-year-old boy not even to count his toes. All this may not have been recreation, but it was strong training in patience.

And that reminds me that I have the brand of Iowa still upon me, for one of my earliest recollections of that great and glorious state was stepping barefooted on a red-hot iron chip at my father's blacksmith shop, the scar of which I still carry.

But there are few scars that people carry from the state of Iowa. The good Lord originally made it the richest stretch of agricultural land that ever blessed any one sovereign government. It was populated by the more adventurous and the more courageous, who fought their way along the ever-extending frontier.

They builded here in short a period as 75 years a people who today enjoy the highest standard of living, the highest average intelligence, the highest average degree of education that has ever blessed a single commonwealth. There is no man or woman who is not proud of his native state.

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MAY PAVE ON POINT ROAD

Commissioners Discuss Proposed Extension

Paving of three to five miles on the Barreda-Point Isabel highway from the end of the present pavement was discussed briefly by the commissioners court Friday morning. The subject will come up for further discussion at the next meeting on Wednesday, December 26, at which time H. M. Pattee, commissioner-elect for the Point Isabel-Los Fresnos precinct, will be present.

A request for state aid in paving the entire highway has been presented the state highway department. In the event aid is not available at this time the commissioners may decide to pave three to five miles, half of the paving to be financed by that precinct and the remainder to be supplied county-wide from various road funds. Members of the court stated they were willing to cooperate with the Point Isabel-Los Fresnos precinct, but would be opposed to providing any funds allotted to their respective precincts from the $6,000,000 bond issue.

The suggestion was made by Finley Ewing of Harlingen that favorable action upon the port bond issues of the Brownsville and San Benito navigation districts would have considerable influence upon the state highway department in extending aid on the coast road.

In presenting the matter County Judge O. C. Dancy stated that the three miles east from the pavement was practically impassable in wet weather and is the most difficult piece of road in the county to maintain.

CHANNEL MUST

(Continued from page one.)

trict, except in voting precinct No. 5, Los Fresnos, is based upon the fear of the persons expressing such opposition that the funds from the said $2,000,000 bond issue will be expended in part on a channel in the Laguna Madre bay from Brazos Santiago pass to the vicinity of Pt. Isabel, one or both, and on an inland channel to Brownsville or vicinity connecting with such Point Isabel channel or Point Isabel turning basin.

"Whereas, it is deemed proper and necessary to satisfy the voters in said proposed district, and to safeguard the desire and intent of the property owners and legal voters in the proposed district, and to make clear the purposes for which the funds to be derived from the sale of said bonds shall be expended, that this court enter an order defining the improvement or improvements and the locality thereof, upon which expenditure of such funds may be made, and fixing, limiting and defining the contingencies and conditions upon which said district will meet the government requirements as outlined in the rivers and harbors bill of $6,000,000 in cash, and the purchase of lands required by said bill on Padre Island and on Brazos Island, and such other requirements as are made therein;

"Now, therefore, it is by the court ordered, adjudged and decreed, as follows:

"First: That no part of the funds arising from said $2,000,000 bond issue shall be expended outside of the metes and bounds of said proposed district, except such part thereof as may be expended by the United States government for jetties and construction in the Gulf of Mexico beyond Brazos Santiago pass under the contingencies and conditions hereinafter set out.

"Second: That any part of the funds necessary to meet the government requirements of $6,000,000 cash, and the purchase of the area required on Padre Island, and the area required on Brazos Island, and such other requirements as the United States government may make, shall be furnished to the United States government in the event, and only in the event, that a channel shall be constructed through the Laguna Madre bay from Brazos Santiago pass along the most direct practicable route toward Brownsville, to connect on such direct route with an inland channel extending inland to a point at or near the city of Brownsville to be constructed along the nearest and most practicable route.

"Third: That in no event shall any of the moneys derived from the sale of said bond issue be used for any purpose whtasoever, if the main channel leading from Brazos Santiago pass through the bay be constructed by way of Point Isabel, nor unless adequate maintenance funds be provided by the United States government to be used for the maintenance of such Brownsville channel through the Laguna Madre bay."

2 TRAINMEN HURT AS TEXAS FREIGHTS HIT

AUSTIN, Tex., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Engineer "Buddy" Jenkins of Smithville suffered bruises about the head and legs and possible internal injuries and H. N. Foote, brakeman, Smithville, suffered several broken bones in his right foot when a freight train which had stopped to take water was rammed from behind by another at Circleville, between Taylor and Granger, yesterday. Several other trainmen wee brruised and shaken up. Damage ran into thousands of dollars.



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BOY'S SLAYER



Peter Kudzinowski, formerly of Greenwood, Pa., arrested by Detroit, Mich., police, has confessed, according to police to the murder of Joseph Storelli, 7-year-old New York boy, in a swamp near Jersey City, N. J. Kudzinowski was arrested in Detroit as a drunk and has been returned to New York to face charges. Police believe he can clear up other slaying in New York and Pennsylvania.

PROBE EFFORT AT WRECKING

Think Attempt Made To Loot $4,000,000 on Train

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 21.—(AP)—Detectives of the Pennsylvania railroad, aided by county officers of Indiana, today were investigating a reported attempt to wreck and loot a fast Chicago-Louisville passenger train supposedly carrying $4,000,000 for delivery to Louisville banks, as it sped south from Indianapolis to Louisville, yesterday.

Both the engineer and the fireman of the train reported the attempted wreck after the train reached Louisville.

Jacob Sehr, engineer, said that the train was nearing Whiteland, Ind., about 40 miles following departure from Indianapolis, C. M. Crooks, the fireman, saw right of way lights a short distance down the track suddenly shift from green to red. Sehr declared he quickly closed the locomotive throttle and applied brakes, stopping the train just as the engine was passing from the main line to a switch.

Simultaneously, he said, an automobile parked on a nearby highway suddenly started and disappeared down the road, traveling at a high speed. Subsequent investigation of the switch revealed the lock had been broken.

Sheriff Charles G. Bowen arested a negro suspect at Franklin, Ind., shortly after the case had been reported to his office, but did not reveal the evidence against the prisoner.

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